

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06

CIEP-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 /152 W
----- 053930

R 191700Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5966

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRE ANNOUNCES NATIONALIZATION OF PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTION

REF: KINSHASA 10998 (NOTAL)

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO US OIL COMPANIES AFFECTED, TEXACO AND MOBIL, CONVOKED ALONG WITH SHELL AND FINA REPS BY STATE COMMISSIONERS (I.E. MINISTERS) FOR ENERGY AND MINES DEC 19. NEITHER MUNTU NOR UMBA COULD SHED ANY LIGHT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES ANNOUNCED DEC 18 AND ADVISED OIL COMPANIES TO CONTINUE TO DO BUSINESS AS USUAL.

2. MINISTERS DID SPECIFICALLY STATE THAT NATIONALIZATION OF DISTRIBUTION DID NOT RPT NOT AFFECT TEXACO AND SHELL'S PROSPECTION AGREEMENT.

3. EARLIER GOZ HAD ASKED OIL COMPANIES TO ASSIST IN LOCATING A TANKER FOR LEASE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION MINISTERS STATED THIS WOULD NOW BE TAKEN CARE OF BY GOZ.

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4. SEILBERT (TEXACO) SAYS GOZ MAY ULTIMATELY OPT FOR GOZ IMPORTATION OF FINISHED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND CRUDE FOR LOCAL REFINING AND WILL DISTRIBUTE FINISHED PRODUCTS TO OIL COMPANIES FOR MARKETING. GOZ IS CLEARLY IN NO POSITION TO IMPLEMENT DEC 18 DECISION IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. SEIBERT DENIES GOZ ALLEGATIONS MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES DIVERTED PETROLEUM DESTINED FOR ZAIRE TO OTHER COUNTRIES. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO OIL COMPANIES, HE SAID, INFORMED GOZ THERE WAS A WORLDWIDE SHORTAGE AND THAT ZAIRE COULD WIND UP WITH 25 PERCENT LESS OIL THAN USUAL.
NEWLIN

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